

5-Year Plan FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN 2005-2009

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Revised November 2007



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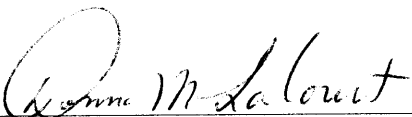

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I. INTRODUCTION

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Forest stewardship is the care of forests for the long term health and sustainability they are capable of. The Forest Stewardship Program encourages the application of sound economic and ecological principles for the sustainable management of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) lands. The program's purpose is to enable individual landowners to achieve personal land ownership goals and objectives while maintaining forest ecosystems, biological resources, and the supply of forest products for future owners and society as a whole.

The Forest Stewardship Program provides assistance to owners of forest land and other lands where good stewardship will enhance and sustain the long term productivity of multiple forest resources. Special attention is given to landowners in important forest resource areas and those new to, or in the early stages of managing their land in a way that embodies multi-resource stewardship principles. The program provides landowners with the professional planning and technical assistance so they can make management decisions that will keep their land in a productive and healthy condition.

The Forest Stewardship Program is authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 2103A. These standards and guidelines are intended to assist State partners with the implementation of this authority and to provide supplemental guidance, as appropriate, to achieve intended program outcomes.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

There is a public interest in encouraging stewardship of private forest land to maintain forest ecosystems, biological resources, and the supply of forest products. In the United States, the right to own and manage land is an inherent and cherished right of all citizens. Forestland in the United States is held in three broad ownerships; public, private and corporate. U.S. timberland ownership is 59 percent private non-industrial, 14 percent forest industry, 10 percent national forest, and 17 percent other public. In Michigan, 53% of the land area is forestland and nearly half of Michigan's forest is owned by non-industrial private individuals, approximately 320,000 people.

In order to preserve the ecological, economic, and spiritual values of the forest in America, decisions about management must be made with sustainability in mind. Forests are only renewable resources if they remain forests – once they are converted to other land uses, they are no longer a renewable resource. In order to make decisions about forests so they are managed sustainably, forest owners need to be aware of the big picture in terms of resource values. While they may wish to manage to meet personal goals of revenue, hunting access, or recreation, it is often true that these owners will make sustainable decisions that also meet their primary goals of ownership, once they are aware of the multiple values.

Under the Forest Stewardship Program, woodland owners are encouraged and aided in achieving personal goals for their tract of land, and provided with information on the entire range of natural resource values that their land contains. Through forest stewardship plans, and outreach and education efforts, landowners have the opportunity to learn about the range of sustainable options available to forest owners. Over time, even though that same tract may be owned by a succession of people with differing land management objectives, the information provided will enable owners to use sustainable forestry practices to protect, enhance, and perpetuate its forest ecosystems, biological resources, and forest products.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM GOALS

The Forest Stewardship Program focuses on providing technical assistance, which includes information, education and services to landowners (not currently managing their forest land), according to a resource management plan that embodies multi-resource stewardship principles. Private nonindustrial forest lands that are now managed may be eligible for assistance, if their management activities are expanded or enhanced to meet the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Program.

The goals of the FSP are to:

- encourage non industrial private forest owners to manage their forest land in a sustainable manner.
- Provide technical assistance to private forest owners so they can make informed decisions regarding the management of their forest land
- Provide information about incentives to forest land owners which encourage the retention of their forest land, such as the tax laws that effect forest owners, and credits for Carbon Sequestration.
- Provide outreach and education opportunities to non industrial private forest owners, and the public, so they can better understand the values in forests, and how to manage them sustainably for the benefits they provide to society.
- Encourage a sound understanding of forest systems, forestry practices, and forest ecosystem services so that well-informed decisions can be made.

Michigan's Forest Stewardship Program will specifically seek to foster agency and organizational cooperation to achieve NIPF management goals. A partnership among state, federal, and local natural resource agencies, universities and colleges, and the private sector will maximize assistance for landowners and accomplishments on the land.

II. MICHIGAN FOREST STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

A Michigan Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee (FSAC) was initiated in 1991 under the guidelines set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the State Forester, Forest Management Division, in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A Forest Stewardship Coordinator was appointed in December, 1991. The selection of the FSAC was done in February, 1992, and the first meeting of the full committee was March 5, 1992. **The FSAC**, as mandated in the Forestry Title of the 1990 Farm Bill, **must include representatives from the following groups, agencies, and organizations:**

- The USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- USDA Consolidated Farm Service Agency
- Michigan State University Extension Service
- local governments
- conservation districts
- consulting foresters
- environmental organizations
- forest products industry
- forest landowners
- land-trust organizations
- conservation organizations
- state fish and wildlife agencies
- Any other appropriate groups added by the Michigan State Forester.

Note: For a current membership listing, see Appendix A.

Roles And Structure:

Michigan's Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee functions as an advisory committee to the Michigan State Forester. The Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee evolved from the Michigan Forestry Planning and Development Committee (MFPDC). Michigan's Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee will provide assistance and recommendations to the State Forester concerning the direction, development, implementation, and monitoring of the Michigan's Forest Stewardship Program, the Forest Legacy program and the Forest Land Enhancement Program. If funds are made available for cooperative projects, the State Forester will annually request proposals. The Committee will recommend criteria for evaluating those proposals that are submitted. The proposals will be presented to the State Forester for approval.

Duties: The FSAC shall make recommendations to the State Forester on the priorities and responsibilities of the Forest Stewardship Program and plans, and on the priorities for the Forest Legacy program. The Officers shall set the agenda for each meeting. The Chair shall establish additional committees, as needed. The Working Chair shall ensure that reports or documents that are prepared reflect the Committee's views, and shall submit such documents to the FSAC before signing.

Terms: Normally, committee members serve a 3 year term, and may be reappointed for consecutive terms. Some committee members will have ongoing membership by virtue of their responsibilities. Examples of such members are: State conservationist, State Chair of forest landowners association.

Officers:

- Chair and administrator: State Forester or Designee
- Working Chair: Elected by the FSAC
- Secretary: State Forest Stewardship Coordinator

The State Forester's role is designated by Federal Law. The Working Chair will be elected by the Committee, and shall serve for a 3 year term. The Secretary will be the State Forest Stewardship Coordinator.

The Committee meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order. A recording secretary shall be appointed for each meeting. Actions of the Committee shall be by simple majority of those present and voting.

Forest Stewardship Committees

Committees are working groups consisting of members of the full FSAC. Other individuals with special knowledge or backgrounds may be invited to participate in committee meetings. These committees will be appointed by the FSAC and approved by the State Forester. These committees will report their activities and recommendations to the full Advisory Committee.

- **Executive Committee :** The Executive Committee will conduct ongoing, regular business between meetings of the FSAC. Review of the Stewardship Program budget shall be an additional Responsibility of this committee. The Executive Committee shall advise the State Forester in resolving grievances brought to the attention of the committee. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the State Forester, the State Coordinator, the chair and vice-chair, and the heads of the other committees.
- **Invasive Species Committee:** The Invasive species committee will evaluate which species are the highest priority for Michigan Woodlands, and advise the State Forester on funding priorities.
- **Legacy Committee:** The Legacy Committee shall follow the Federal activities relating to the Legacy Program, and make recommendations to the full Advisory Committee on this program.

III. FOREST RESOURCE ISSUES

Critical issues facing Michigan's forests include:

- In order to influence the conservation of working forest landscapes, the use of natural resource professionals by private landowners needs to increase. Of the approximately 400,000 NIPF landowners in Michigan, only a small fraction regularly involve natural resource professionals in managing their woodlands. The FSP will encourage landowners to consult with professional resource specialists regarding the management of their lands.
- Parcelization of (dividing up) large forestland holdings in Michigan will result in a greater number of private forestland owners, each with decisions to make about managing and retaining the forested property. These property owners will benefit from the comprehensive information available in a Forest Stewardship plan, from technical assistance, and from Outreach and Education offerings.
- The cost of owning forestland can be high when you add up the taxes and investments needed. Incentives offered in Michigan include two Forest Tax laws, and a Carbon Sequestration project. Information on the benefits and costs of using these incentives is needed so landowners can make an informed decision.
- Insect and disease threats continue to damage Michigan's forest resource. Of interest are the exotic species that decimate certain forest species and threaten to change the diversity of the native forest. These include the Emerald Ash Borer, Oak Wilt disease, the Beech Bark Disease, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, and the Asian Longhorned beetle. Continued training and education are offered on the presence and treatment for these threats, through the FSP and the Forest Health program.
- Low level of harvesting from private forests (non-industrial owners) relative to growing stock and annual growth rates may mean that some landscapes are not being maintained in a manner beneficial to both owner and society. These decisions are based on knowledge, as well as the goals of the owners. By providing information in the way of plans, and Outreach and Education, the harvest levels may change. If this happens, further economic incentives will be provided to the landowner, and to new forest products markets.
- Slower annual growth rates compared to other parts of the world make Michigan forest ownerships less competitive than other areas. The nature of forests in Michigan do not lend themselves strictly to complete advantage of plantation management in the tropics vs. the unevenaged forests prevalent in Michigan. Active management can enhance the growth of Michigan forests.

Michigan Forests

Forest systems (19.3 million acres) cover half of Michigan's total land area. Of this, 18.6 million acres are classified as timber land, of which 57 percent is owned by NIPF. This amounts to 10,600,000 acres. In Michigan, yet it has been estimated that less than 5 percent of its NIPF landowners seek professional forest land management assistance. Michigan's forests and wildlife have intrinsic economic and recreational value to all citizens, and the choices made on private forest lands will also affect the quality of life in Michigan. Michigan ranks 5th in the nation of having the most forestland.

Forest Land Conversions

As human populations extend into rural areas, they bring associated values with them. Thus, new roads are constructed; existing roads and utility lines are extended, and service-related businesses are established in areas that were forested or may still be forested. The development of such services leads to a "snowball" effect that further accelerates the rate of forest land conversions. Besides the direct conversion of forest land into more intensive uses, Michigan's forests area being carved up into smaller and smaller pieces as property is sold, subdivided, and resold. Dividing forest land into progressively smaller parcels disrupts ecosystem functions and makes managing these lands for many forest values much more difficult. Mineral development in some areas also breaks up large forested parcels into a series of small woodlots.

If Michigan is to retain its forest land and associated values, the State's landowners must be provided with incentives to retain and manage their property for long-term, forest-related objectives, such as revision of the Private Forest Reserves Act, the Commercial Forest, Stewardship Incentives Program, Forestry Incentives Program, and conservation easements.

The issues related to forest land conversion include:

- minimizing the conversion of forest land to non-forest uses;
- minimizing the subdivision of forest land into small parcels.
- Determine what kinds of forestry assistance might be appropriate and available
- for owners of small forest parcels (the "backyard" forest).

Michigan Recreation in the Forest: Hunters and Anglers.

In Michigan, the number of paid hunting license holders dropped from 1.1 million in 1994 to fewer than 780,000 in 2006, ranking behind Texas and Pennsylvania, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Huntin and Willife-Associated Recreation done by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.. Michigan ranked fifth in fishing with more than 1.4 million anglers fishing in Michigan waters, just behind Minnesota (the other land of 10,000 lakes). Florida, Texas, and California round out the top states for numbers of in-state anglers.

Michigan also had the highest percentage of sportspersons (hunters and anglers) and wildlife watchers among the top ten most populous states; in 2006, 47 percent of residents participated in some form of wildlife-associated recreation and spent more than 43 million days devoted to these pastimes in Michigan alone has direct and indirect impacts on the abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife species, and the quality of the State's water resources.

In terms of their economic impact, the participants in fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching are estimated to add \$4 billion to Michigan businesses for trip-related expenses and equipment. These recreational users are important to the economy of Michigan and may be a large part of the new ownership of the newly fragmented industrial forestland divesture. This creates a unique opportunity to reach these potential new landowners, building on their original natural resource interests to help them make sound management decisions.

Much of Michigan's wildlife is dependent upon forested areas. Many lakes and streams are located in forested areas, making fish and other aquatic species beneficiaries of forest management practices as well. Management of forest land has direct and indirect impacts on the abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife species, and the quality of the State's water resources.

Recreation And Aesthetics

Tourism and recreation directly attributable to forest recreation in Michigan represents 50,000 jobs and almost 3 billion dollars in economic output. While much of this is on publicly owned land, with private forest owners controlling over 50% of the forest resources, they are also responsible for these forest attributes.

Private owners are both stewards and users of the forest, when it comes to recreation and aesthetic enjoyment. These are among the principal reasons why NIPF landowners own woodlands. Viewing wildlife, hunting, fishing, and enjoying the quiet solitude and beauty of their woodlands are common reasons for acquiring land. Many of these same benefits also accrue to visitors and travelers even though not all the private land is open for public use.

It may be possible to increase user satisfaction by assisting owners to maintain or increase the species diversity and numbers of wildlife through habitat management and to manage woodlands to enhance their aesthetic value. Managing for aesthetic values is especially important along travel corridors and property boundaries.

The issues related to recreation and aesthetics on NIPF land include:

- improving and maintaining aesthetic values;

- increasing landowner recreation opportunities;
- enhancing landowner information about the range of possibilities that will result in benefits to these values, while maintaining forest health and vigor.

Michigan Timber Industry

According to the Michigan Forest Products Council, in their report on “Trends in Michigan’s Forest Products Industry”, Michigan’s forests contribute significantly to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of its citizens. There are over 1,400 forest products manufacturing facilities in Michigan, with more than an additional 1,700 business units related to forest products manufacturing (logging companies, consulting foresters, wholesalers). One out of every ten manufacturing jobs in Michigan is accounted for by the forest products industry. When considering direct and indirect effects of the industry on the state’s economy, the total economic benefit of the forest products industry is greater than \$11 billion and represents over 150,000 jobs. The value of Michigan’s forests can be divided into distinct sectors – manufacturing, timber lands, and forest recreation. In most rural communities, the forest products industry is the leading employer and largest economic contributor.

Despite this important role that the forest products industry plays in Michigan’s economy, the industry has suffered as a direct result of the economic downturn in Midwest manufacturing of the past several years. The direct result of this downturn has been the loss of over 20,000 jobs, \$700 million in wages and over 300 individual businesses/manufacturing facilities from the forest products industry. Indirect losses amount to much more when considering the loss of jobs, wages, and businesses related to the procurement, manufacture, and distribution of wood-based products.

The forest products industry’s stability is vitally important across the state, but especially critical in maintaining healthy economies in the rural communities that rely on the forest products industry. Michigan’s timber is a \$9 billion industry, ranked within the top 15 timber producing states. In addition, Michigan boasts a \$3 billion forest-based recreation program, which includes snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hiking, camping and many more activities.

Landowners have historically had limited exposure to forest management principles. Therefore, the correlation between implementing management practices such as harvests and achieving multiple resource goals is often not recognized by landowners. The issues related to wood fiber production on NIPF lands include the following:

- providing a sustainable flow of wood fiber from Michigan NIPF lands;
- regenerating desired tree species;
- increasing tree growth rates;
- improving stand composition;
- aesthetics, homesteads, and timber management.

Soil And Water

Unwise forest harvesting, site preparation, and reforestation techniques, such as use of heavy equipment on saturated soils, may adversely affect regeneration and tree growth by compacting soils. Long-term site productivity will be enhanced by protecting forest soils. Other forest-related activities such as road construction, stream crossings, recreational site development and use, domestic livestock grazing and improper application of pesticides can adversely affect water quality and fisheries management.

The prevention or reduction of soil erosion can be expanded to adjacent agricultural lands by establishing field windbreaks, and by converting marginal or highly erodible agricultural land, including buffer strips along streams, to permanent vegetative cover. Best management practices (BMP’s) guidelines have been developed to protect forest water quality in Michigan (Water Quality Management Practices on Forest Land, MDNR, 1994). Training is needed to inform landowners, foresters, and loggers on their use. The Stewardship Advisory Committee will work with the State Forester and other interested individuals to further understanding, interpretation, implementation and revision of these guidelines.

The issues related to soil and water on NIPF lands include:

- promoting reforestation of marginal or highly erodible farm lands;
- maintaining or improving forest soil productivity (including adding soil
- enhancements such as fertilizer and lime) and preventing erosion of forest

- soils;
- maintaining or improving water quality of forest and adjacent lands;
- managing and reforesting riparian zones.

Forest Ecosystems

The issues related to integrated management for sustainable forest ecosystems on NIPF lands include:

- Creating and maintaining an appropriate mix of forest types and age classes on the landscape;
- Utilizing an integrated approach for protection of forest components and processes and the enhancement of forest health;
- Enhancing large forested areas;
- Enhancing biological diversity;
- Maintaining and restoring wetlands and riparian areas;
- Integration of landscape uses;
- Maintaining unique forest ecosystems such as old growth areas, barrens and savannahs, bogs, fens, and vernal ponds;
- Encourage the production and use of native species, where appropriate;
- Maintaining and restoring endangered and threatened species populations and those that are likely to become so.
- maintaining sustainable populations of fish, game, and non-game wildlife and plants;
- controlling or eradicating invasive threats to Michigan Forests

Projected Outcomes

Forest stewardship practices applied and expanded to most of these NIPF acres would maintain, enhance and sustain forest ecosystems and their full array of species; improve fish, game and nongame wildlife and plant populations; result in stable production of wood products; provide additional quality outdoor recreational experiences; ensure soil productivity; protect water quality and quantity; protect wetlands; protect cultural/historic sites; and enhance the biological diversity and aesthetic qualities of our landscape.

Public involvement in promoting forest stewardship on private forest lands through technical assistance, incentives, and education will contribute to the diversity of Michigan's economic base. This involvement will help stabilize rural communities and enhance their quality-of-life. By investing public funds in the Forest Stewardship Program, federal, state, and local governments are helping to ensure that private lands produce public goods.

IV. STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING MANAGEMENT ON NIPF LANDS

The Forest Stewardship Program is intended to complement current governmental programs and private efforts aimed at improving management on NIPF lands. In Michigan, the Forest Stewardship program is one of the main mechanisms available to private forest owners who want an unbiased source of information on managing their land. Although there is a cadre of competent private consultants, the FSP allows the landowner to utilize the services of the DNR and partners such as Conservation Districts to obtain a first overall assessment of their property and who they might contact for further assistance. To improve integrated resource management of NIPF lands, a combination of technical assistance, financial incentives, information and education, and training will be planned and implemented.

Strategies

- Continue to provide DNR expertise via Service Forester assistance to landowners and to Conservation Districts.
- Continue to partner with Conservation Districts to help forestry personnel deliver technical assistance and outreach to private landowners and citizens.
- Continue to partner with the private sector forestry professionals to offer technical assistance and plans to private forest owners and citizens.
- Utilize the Spatial Analysis data to focus efforts on high priority forest lands in Michigan.
- Partner with other states to offer broader technical assistance and information to landowners.

- Pursue incentive programs for private forest owners, such as the Forest Carbon Offset Trading efforts, and provide information regarding beneficial tax laws, to encourage the retention of forestland and discourage parcelization and fragmentation.
- Pursue providing tools to landowners and communities on positive mechanisms to pass along forest lands from generation to generation, and to provide for community planning for the retention of forest lands as development proceeds.
- Technical assistance is defined as any professional natural resource guidance or service provided in a one-on-one setting regarding forest land management.
- Information and education is defined as any publication, media project, tour, conference, demonstration area, exhibit, meeting, or committee work that is designed to impart knowledge, impact attitudes, and influence change.
- Stewardship grant monies shall be divided according to annual priorities. This allocation of funds is expected to result in the successful promotion of the Forest Stewardship Program and to provide sufficient assistance to achieve management goals. More specific strategies are discussed below.

Goals and Delivery System

- The primary goal of Michigan's Forest Stewardship Program is to significantly increase the amount of NIPF lands managed and the quality of that management. Our goal is to place an additional 200,000 acres of NIPF lands under management, according to Forest Stewardship Program principles and to prepare 1,000 stewardship plans by **September 30, 2009**, assuming full funding levels, while increasing the quality of Michigan's forest and the management thereof. The focus of the landowner stewardship plans will be on expansion of management to encompass the broad goals contained within Forest Stewardship.
- In addition, the goals are to influence private forest owners to reduce the divestiture of their forest land to retain it as forest into the future. This can be done by offering information in the form of workshops for plan writers and landowners. It is a goal to offer four of these workshops in each part of the state by September 30, 2009.
- It is our goal to strengthen our partnerships with the Conservation Districts, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Consulting Foresters and Natural Resource professionals. These partnerships will enable us to deliver the information via forest stewardship plans and technical assistance for private forest owners. We will offer training for Conservation District forestry personnel, for Consulting Foresters, and any NRCS personnel who wish to learn more about forestry assistance. This will take the form of at least one training session per year. In addition, as we pursue the ecosystem services incentives, we will strive to partner with these groups to develop sound, practical systems of monitoring and verifying the programs we administer.
- It is our goal to complete and refine the Spatial Analysis project so that it is useful and accessible to all partners. This will include offering the use of the federal tool, WebDET, to all plan writers, so they can access the web available data in the production of comprehensive forest stewardship plans.
- It is our goal to partner with natural resource professionals and loggers to provide technical assistance to NIPF landowners. Maintaining continuing education in areas such as species regeneration and forest management will be needed. Loggers and timber buyers have a greater direct and immediate impact on NIPF lands than do other natural resource professionals. Landowners are encouraged to use Professional Loggers and others who have completed the sustainable forestry education program, and participate in annual continuing education programs.

V. ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Following are five-year recommendations made by the Michigan Forest Stewardship Committee. These recommendations will be reviewed, supplemented, and approved as the plan is implemented within annual budget allocations.

Five-Year Continuing Action Recommendations

1. The Forest Stewardship Program Plan will be reviewed and updated as needed.
2. Additional technical assistance will be provided to NIPF landowners concerning forest ecosystem management. This additional assistance may be provided by contracting with consultants; by encouraging consultants to write plans using Stewardship and/or **FLEP** dollars by **partnering with** the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Tree Farm, NRCS, Michigan Forest Association and Conservation Districts, other conservation organizations, universities and other sources of professional guidance; and by involving Forest industries.

3. Training programs will be conducted to educate natural resource professionals on managing ecosystems. There will be an emphasis on education regarding wildlife and fish habitat; rare, endangered, and threatened species; **invasive species**, protection of unique ecosystems; and water quality.
4. Training programs will be conducted to inform loggers about forest management with particular emphasis on maintaining water quality through adoption of best management practices, and through harvest practices that stimulate natural reproduction of desired tree species. (i.e. Sustainable Forestry Education and the Master Logger Program)
5. Demonstration areas will be used to show landowners the effects of various silvicultural and land management treatments over time.
6. Information and education projects will be aimed at NIPF landowners. They may include such actions as absentee landowner conferences in major metropolitan areas, publications and audio-visual programs on managing forest ecosystem types, mass media advertising, and news stories.

2005 – 2009 ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Stewardship Advisory Committee revisited the priorities for Michigan in March of 2006. The following are the issues that were ranked as high in importance and the recommendations to the State Foresters.

- The main focus should be on getting plans on lands.
 - Use landscape information and focus on management choices that are sustainable.
 - Evaluate the quality of the plans and monitor the practices implemented.
 - Streamline the plan writing process
 - Investigate certification of private lands
 - Partner with industry to get more plans produced
- Develop some statewide policies for Forest Stewardship on private lands
 - Use of native, common, non-native and invasive species
 - Identification and protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species
 - Prescribed burning and a methodology to adopt this policy
 - Working forest conservation easements
- Focus on the future
 - Develop a plan to sustain private forest land assistance if the Federal dollars dry up
 - Develop MOUs with partners to deliver private lands assistance
 - Work with other states and organizations to leverage information transfer and private lands assistance.
- Continue and strengthen Outreach and Education
 - Develop fact sheets for landowners on up to date silvicultural practices that are sustainable.
 - Hold more landowner workshops, at least 2 per year.
 - Tap into the older generation and go to events like Outdoorama
 - Stress Service Foresters being able to market the programs more.
 - Train more Plan Writers.
- Other areas to focus on
 - Forest regeneration
 - Developing new markets
 - Examine the role of FSAC in relationship to other state committees

VI. ACCOMPLISHMENTS & TARGETS

Michigan's Forest Stewardship Program is unique in that the State of Michigan has depended almost solely on Conservation District Foresters and Private Consulting Foresters and Wildlife Biologists to provide the Forest Stewardship Management Plan to NIPF landowners. Landowners pay a portion of the cost of having a plan written, and the Forest Stewardship program provides a portion, up to 50% of the cost of the plan (based on a formula).

Michigan has a large pool of foresters that help develop FSP. Service Foresters maintain program quality by evaluating and approving all FSP plans. Conservation District foresters work with landowners to help them gain an interest in forest management, especially the landowner with 12 to 20 acres of forest land, consulting foresters work primarily with landowners with 20 or more acres of forest land. Many consulting foresters become certified plan writers and write the Forest Stewardship plans. At times there is tension between the various groups, but for the most part they work together, especially at the local level.

Despite this potential, the number of plans and plan acres has dropped significantly over the past three years. The MDNR promotes Stewardship as the plan of choice, in practice, at the field level, some Conservation District foresters and others are taking a broader approach as they work with landowners. They work with landowners on project plans that meet a specific need with hope of eventually leading them to a Stewardship plan.

Over the past ten years, Michigan's Forest Stewardship Program has sponsored several high quality training sessions for our certified plan writers. Only within the last two years has the program required certified plan writers to seek out their own training sessions to fulfill their 6 contact hours of continuing education requirement. The following is a sample of the training sessions provided:

- Oak Wilt workshops
- FLEP Training
- Plan Writer training
- Forest Health workshops
- Peer Review Workshops
- Ecological Habitat Classification Workshops
- Grassland Management
- Invasive species workshops
- Planning for Sustainability

The Forest Stewardship Program has expanded training to persons who are not certified plan writers. These trainings take the form of Forest Health Workshops, plan information workshops and General Forestry workshop. There is also annual training directed at Conservation District Resource Professionals.

In addition to our management plans and training sessions, the FSP has funded:

- a Study of Private Forest Owners in Michigan conducted by MSU and Extension,
- provided funding support for the development of natural features information to be included in forest plans.
- a series of Invasive species workshops offered by the Stewardship Network in Ann Arbor,
- the development of a green space map and forest stewardship initiative by Grand Valley State University for the greater Grand Rapids area,
- utilization of forest stewardship plan information in two Detroit area parks with forested portions, a
- nd support for a Forestry interactive area at the Upper Peninsula State Fair.
- Michigan Forest Stewardship Program helped to fund the Clay Lakes Plain Ecosystem Project in 1995,
- the Kotar Ecological Habitat analysis for the Southern Peninsula in 2005,
- and the Delta Forest Carbon Offset Trading Project in 2006-7 . This project remains active, holding workshops for landowners and helping to have Forest Stewardship Management Plans written.

The following table shows Michigan's accomplishments for providing Forest Stewardship Management plans and information to non-industrial private landowners:

	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04
Acres	19,212	18,170	20,610	30,560	24,252
Plans	167	123	128	155	134
Outreach events			12	7	4
Target plans	450	450	450	450	450

	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY09
Acres	28,758	25,540	54,824		
Plans	152	160	256		
Outreach events	7	10	6		
Target plans/year	200	200	200	200	200

VII. BUDGET

	Year	Funding	Plan cost share
	FY00	\$163,000.	\$ 72,900
	FY01	\$200,000	\$135,157
	FY02	\$311,200	\$137,650
	FY03	\$330,500	\$100,000
	FY04	\$419,000	\$100,000
	FY05	\$321,100	\$100,000
	FY06	\$325,400	\$ 84,025
	FY07	\$388,900	\$123,236
Estimated	FY08	\$329,065	with 15% reduction from 07
Estimated	FY09	\$246,799	With 25% reduction from 08

The Michigan program plans to spend approximately 30% of the budget on cost share for plan writing, 10% of the budget on Outreach and Education, 2.5% on Conservation Education, 20% on fixed administrative costs, 20% on salaries, 10% on technical assistance, and the remainder for special funded projects. These amounts will change as the budget changes, in light of the changing federal commitment.

Note: All federal dollars must be matched by non-federal contributions of cash or in-kind funds.

APPENDIX A

MICHIGAN FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following people were invited to participate on the Michigan Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee and were asked to review and approve the Stewardship Plan:

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Signature Form for 2005-2009 Forest Stewardship Plan for Michigan

We do hereby agree that the Michigan Forest Stewardship Plan for 2005-2009 does fairly represent the discussion and direction of the members of the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, as indicated by our signatures below.

Name: Tom Barnes

Date: _____

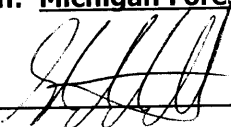
Organization: Michigan Association of Timberman

Signature: _____

Name: George Berghorn

Date: 03 Dec 07

Organization: Michigan Forest Products Council

Signature:  _____

Name: William Botti

Date: 12/3/07

Organization: Michigan Forest Association

Signature: Bill Botti (JVA) _____

Name: Ned Caveney

Date: _____

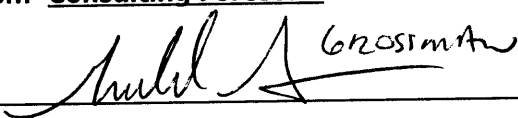
Organization: Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Signature: _____

Name: Gerald Grossman

Date: 12/3/2007

Organization: Consulting Foresters

Signature:  _____

Name: Des Jones

Date: 12/3/07

Organization: Michigan Tree Farm

Signature: Des Jones _____

Name: Lori Phalen

Date: _____

Organization: Michigan Conservation Districts

Signature: _____

Name: Mark Sargent

Date: 12/3/07

Organization: Michigan DNR, Wildlife Division

Signature: Mark Sargent (B.P.P.)

Name: Dean Solomon

Date: 12-3-07

Organization: MSU Extension

Signature: Dean P. Solomon

Name: Warren Suchovsky

Date: _____

Organization: Landowner

Signature: _____

Name: John VanDyke

Date: 12/3/07

Organization: Landowner

Signature: J. F. VanDyke

Name: Tom Ward

Date: 12-3-2007

Organization: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Signature: Thomas S. Ward

Name: Richard Bowman

Date: 12-3-07

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Signature: Richard Bowman

Name: YU MAN LEE

Date: 12/3/07

Organization: Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Signature: Yu Man Lee